

NOTES ON NEOTROPICAL NAUCORIDAE II. A NEW SPECIES OF  
*AMBRYsus* AND REVIEW OF THE GENUS  
*POTAMOCORIS* (HEMIPTERA)<sup>1</sup>

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This is the second in a series intended to revise the naucorid fauna of the Neotropical region.

Specimens of all species treated here are held in the Polhemus Collection (JTP); the disposition of other specimens is given in the text. Unless otherwise noted, for all measurements 40 units = 1 mm.

***Ambrysus plautus*** Polhemus and Polhemus, new species

*General appearance.*—Of moderate size, ovate, shape as in Figure 1A. Ground color yellowish-brown; head and pronotum shallowly rugose, mottled with areas of chocolate brown; scutellum rugulose; hemelytra light umber, minutely punctate, embolium yellowish brown. Venter light brown, abdomen clothed with fine golden hairs; legs dark yellow, with light brown spines.

*Structure.*—Head with eyes raised slightly above surface dorsally; vertex moderately produced behind eyes; labrum shallowly triangular in shape, apex rounded, width/length = 23/12; eyes convergent anteriorly, posterior/anterior interocular space = 60/48. Pronotum with lateral margins broadly convex, smooth; posterolateral angles rounded; width/length = 212/65. Scutellum wider than long, weakly sinuate along lateral margins, width/length = 130/63. Hemelytra fully developed; embolium expanded medially, broadly rounded, not sinuate posteriorly; entire surface set with minute round pits appearing white against darker background. Connexival margins weakly serrate; posterolateral angles strongly spinose. Fore leg femur length/width = 88/50; tarsus slightly exceeding adjacent proximal part of femur. Middle and posterior femora with row of tiny, barely visible spines posterodorsally and posteroventrally; middle and posterior tibiae set with numerous stout spines; distally with two transverse rows of small spines. Propleura not contiguous with prosternum; propleura barely contiguous medially, not contiguous there with mesosternum.

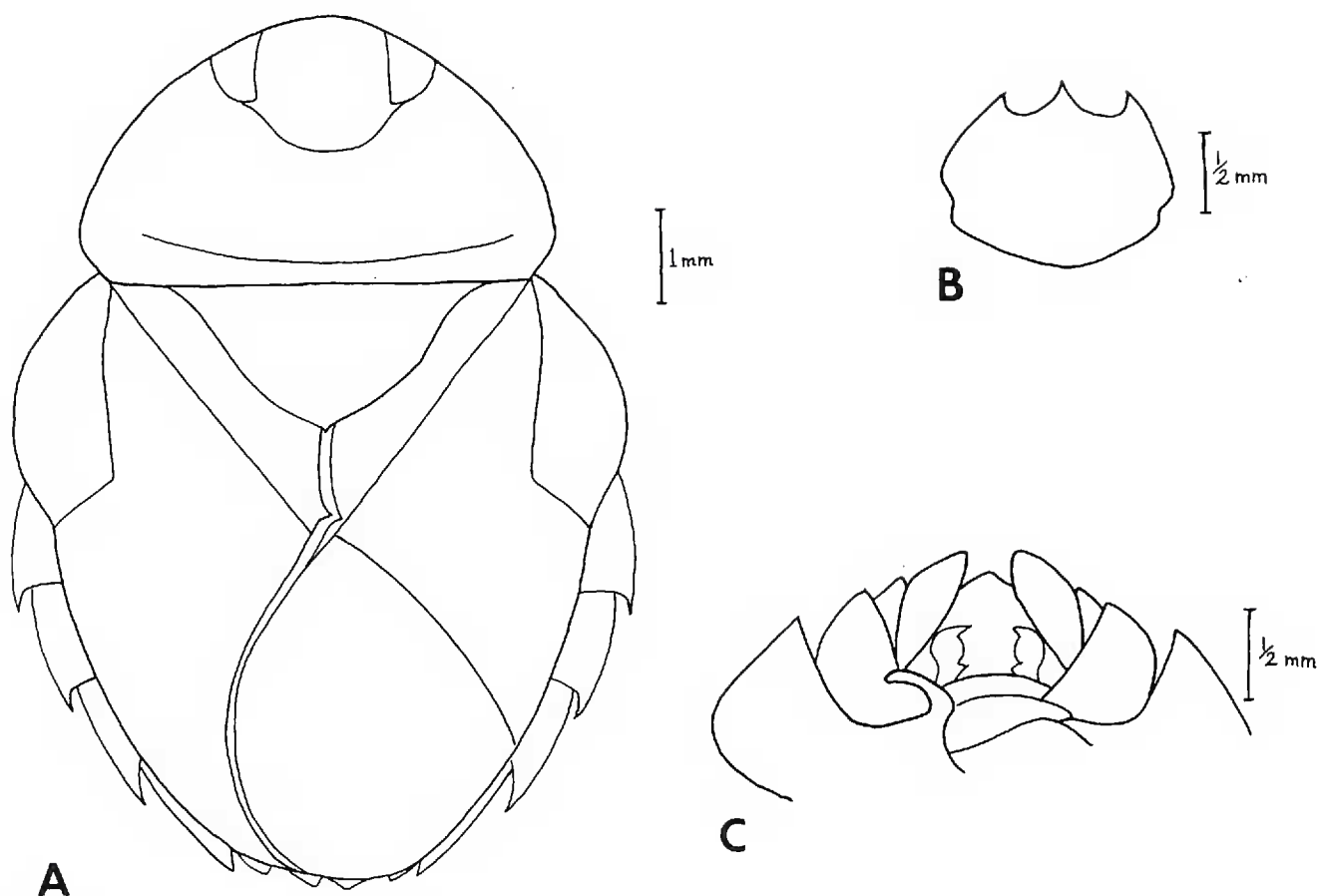


Fig. 1. *Ambrysus plautus*. A, Female, dorsal view. B, Female subgenital plate, ventral view. C, Male genital segments, dorsal view, showing male genital process at left of center (in figure, right side of insect).

Male genital process as in Figure 1C; female subgenital plate shape as shown in Figure 1B.

Total length of males, in mm;  $N = 7$ ,  $\bar{x} = 8.44$ ,  $s = .39$ ; total width of males, in mm;  $N = 7$ ,  $\bar{x} = 6.23$ ,  $s = .25$ . Total length of females, in mm;  $N = 5$ ,  $\bar{x} = 9.36$ ,  $s = .24$ ; total width of females, in mm;  $N = 5$ ,  $\bar{x} = 6.9$ ,  $s = .14$ .

*Type material*.—Holotype, male, and allotype, female, MEXICO, Durango, 20 mi. E of La Ciudad, 8700 feet (2652 m), CL 726, VI-6-1975, J. T. and D. A. Polhemus (JTP). Paratypes (all collected by J. T. and D. A. Polhemus in J. T. Polhemus collection): 6 males, 4 females, 2 nymphs, same data as holotype; 24 males, 24 females, 16 nymphs, same locality as holotype, IV-22-1981; 1 male, 6 females, MEXICO, Chihuahua, Rio Concho, 9 mi. N of Creel, IV-28-1982; 11 males, 14 females, Chihuahua, 7 mi. NE of Rancho Basaseachic, IV-27-1982; 2 females, Chihuahua, 26 mi. NE of Rancho Basaseachic, IV-27-1982.

*Etymology*.—The name *plautus* (L.; broad; masculine) refers to the shape of this insect.

*Discussion*.—*Ambrysus plautus*, n. sp. resembles *Ambrysus drakei* La-

Rivers in general facies, but is much smaller, with the embolium more expanded medially and not sinuate posteriorly, the pronotum more rugose, the body shape more rotund, and the male and female pregenital structures differently shaped. The male process in both species is long and slender; in *A. plautus* it is sharply bent basally (Fig. 1C) but in *A. drakei* it is upright and gently curved basally, bent at or beyond the middle (see figure in LaRivers, 1957). The female subgenital plate of *A. plautus* is trispinose distally (Fig. 1B) whereas in *A. drakei* the subgenital plate is rounded posterolaterally with the lateral spinose processes in a more medial position, and the median process is blunt and sinuate (see LaRivers, 1957). The expanded, broadly rounded embolium and the strongly spinose posterolateral connexival angles are distinctive attributes of this species.

### A Review of the Genus *Potamocoris* Hungerford

We have examined the males and females of all three known species of *Potamocoris* and find that a revision of the LaRivers (1969) key is necessary. *P. robustus* LaRivers has a small incised notch apically on the female subgenital plate, difficult to see because of the hairy vestiture; LaRivers' key uses the supposed absence of such a notch as a key character for *robustus*. The heavy patch of yellow hairs on the posterior edge of the mesofemur (and mesotibia) is not a key character but is sexually dimorphic and present in males of all three species. The median rugulose V-shaped depression on abdominal sternum V is also sexually dimorphic, occurring only in females, and not found in other naucorid genera. The genus furthermore is unique among naucorids in that the species commonly fly; all records for *beckeri* LaRivers, and by far the longest series of *robustus* are from lights.

Nothing is known about the ecology or habitat of this interesting genus. Hungerford's (1941) original description of *Potamocoris* and only known species at that time, *parvus* Hungerford, was based on material collected by Alberto Schulze on the East Paraguay River at or near Horqueta, Paraguay and sent to Hungerford by John Lutz of Philadelphia. If Lutz had any notes on the collection method or habitat they were not furnished.

Twelve specimens of *P. beckeri* were taken by Clark, Murray, Hart, and Schaffner at light, on July 5, 1972, 36 miles E of Acuyacan, Veracruz, Mexico. This extends the known range of this species far north of the type locality in Honduras, where the single female holotype was taken in a light trap (LaRivers, 1950).

Many specimens of *P. robustus* were taken by R. T. and J. C. Schuh at light, December 17, 1971, km 3, Tournavista Road, 34 km W of Pucallpa, 300 m, Loreto, Peru; the type locality is also in Peru. This splendid series should permit morphological studies that will hopefully elucidate the relationship of this annectant genus to the remainder of the Nepomorpha.

For their kindness in allowing the authors to study specimens, we are

indebted to P. D. Ashlock, University of Kansas; J. C. Schaffner, Texas A&M University; R. T. Schuh, American Museum of Natural History.

Key to Species of *Potamocoris* Hungerford

- 1. Inner margins of eyes parallel; V-shaped depression on female fifth sternum occupying almost entire length of segment (Mesoamerica) ..... *beckeri* LaRivers
- Inner margins of eyes distinctly convergent anteriorly; V-shaped depression in female fifth sternum occupying half or a little more of length of segment ..... 2
- 2. Interocular space more than 1.5 × eye width; female subgenital plate sinuate posteriorly, with a small sharply incised notch apically (Peru) ..... *robustus* LaRivers
- Interocular space less than 1.3 × eye width; female subgenital plate smoothly rounded posteriorly, not sinuate, not notched apically (Paraguay) ..... *parvus* Hungerford

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Footnote

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